

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. Claims 1-10 were previously withdrawn and remain withdrawn.

In the Office Action of March 18, 2008, claims 11-18 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claim 11 is amended, claims 1-10 are cancelled and claim 19 is new. Accordingly, claims 11-19 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With this amendment, claim 11 is amended to overcome the rejection by amending the width of the sealing portion to a range of “1mm to 5mm” as supported by the specification on page 4, lines 14-15. In making this amendment, the Applicant intends to include *de minimis* variations of the claimed range.

The Examiner incorrectly states that the limitation of “the thermoplastic layer has a width of 50 microns or less” is not supported in the specification. This limitation is clearly disclosed on page 15 lines 20-21 of the specification which states “The thickness of the thermoplastic layer 42 is preferably **50 µm or less.**” See, Specification Page 16, l. 20-21. Accordingly, the limitation of a thermoplastic layer with a thickness of 50 µm or less is fully disclosed in the specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Because claims 12-18 are dependant, either directly or indirectly, from claim 11, they are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for various informalities. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In response to this Office Action, claim 11 is amended to accommodate the Examiner's request and to overcome the rejections. No new matter was added in the making of these amendments.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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